Suggestions about contractors exploring Natural Gas

2820. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Law and Justice had received any request from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, seeking comments or suggestions with regard to the contractors engaged in exploration of natural gas, who are threatening to abandon the project midway, in case their unlawful demands are not accepted by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any reply has been sent to that Ministry and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Vacancies of Judges in High Court

2821. SHRI B. S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies to be filled up in various High Courts;

(b) the period in months/years since the said posts are lying vacant;

(c) the reasons for the delay in filling up those posts; and

(d) whether Government would formulate a plan for starting up the process of appointment six months before the vacancy occurs and whether Government are having any policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) A Statement is enclosed (*See* below).

(c) and (d) After the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6, 1993 in the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record and Anr. *Vs.* Union of India, read with the Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998, the entire process of initiation of proposal for appointment of a Judge of a High Court, lies with the Chief Justice of that High Court. Government has, however, been periodically reminding the Chief Justices of High Courts and the Chief Ministers of the States for filling up all vacant posts of judges in the High Courts including those falling vacant during the next six months.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Court	Sanctioned Strength	Working Streneth	Vacancies	Date of Vacancy
1	2	3	4	5	6
					07.07.2007